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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-41 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action objected to the Specification for various informalities delineated in Paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants amended the Abstract of the Disclosure to address the points raised in Paragraphs 1 and 2, and have amended the Specification to address the points raised in Paragraph 3.

The Office Action objected to claim 9 for a specified informality in that the term "probability" in line 5 should read "likelihood". In response, Applicants have amended claim 9 accordingly.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23-26, 31-33, 36-38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,138,260 (Ketseoglou) in view of USPN 5,384,565 (Cannon). Further, the Office Action rejects claims 10, 29, 35 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketseoglou in view of Cannon and further in view of USPN 5,408,475 (Lee). Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23-26, 29, 31-33, 35-38, 40 and 41.

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 8, 9, 27, 28, 34 and 39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicates that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended these claims accordingly.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

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No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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